

**FEATURING:**    ♦ Prospective Plantings ♦ Agricultural Prices            ♦ Wool Production  
                          ♦ Hogs & Pigs ♦ Grain Stocks

## MARCH 1 PLANTING INTENTIONS

### U.S. HIGHLIGHTS

**Corn** growers intend to plant 78.2 million acres of corn for all purposes in 1999, down 2 percent from both last year and 1997. If these intentions materialize, this would be the lowest planted acreage since 1995.

**Soybean** producers intend to plant 73.1 million acres in 1999, up 1 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the largest planted area for soybeans on record.

**Winter wheat** acreage, at 43.4 million acres was down 7 percent from 1998's 46.4 million acres seeded.

**Eight-State Burley Belt** intends to set 289,800 acres for harvest, down 8 percent from last year.

### KENTUCKY

The planting intentions for March 1, 1999 indicated farmers intend to increase their acreage of corn while decreasing tobacco and soybean acreages. Intended hay and barley acreage were also up while winter wheat and sorghum were down. The intentions survey was conducted as of March 1 and represent the acreages farmers intend to plant and/or harvest as of that date. Winter wheat and barley were seeded in the fall of 1998.

Farmers intend to plant 1.35 million acres of **corn**, up 4 percent from 1998 and equal to 1994 as the largest planted acreage in 5 years. **Soybean** acreage was expected to be down 50,000 acres from 1998 at 1.17 million acres. This would be the smallest crop since 1995, also with 1.17 million acres.

**Burley tobacco** growers intend to set 200,000 acres for harvest in 1999, a 9 percent decrease from 1998. The basic quota for Kentucky at 308.9 million pounds was down 29 percent while the effective quota is 414.5 million pounds. The burley tobacco acreage intended to be set is not down as much as the basic quota since some farmers are planning to set acres to achieve their effective quota. Acreage set to **dark-fired tobacco** at 7,300 acres was down 200 acres from the previous year while **dark-air tobacco** at 4,500 acres was up 600 from 1998.

**Winter wheat** seeded in the fall of 1998 totaled 650,000 acres, down 13 percent from 1997. The decrease was brought about by poor wheat prices and less tobacco being set as wheat is used as a cover crop on tobacco acres. **Sorghum** acres planted are expected to total 7,000 acres, down from the 10,000 acres the previous year. **Barley** acreage at 9,000 acres was up 1,000 acres from 1998. Farmers expect to harvest 2.40 million acres of **all hay**, up 2 percent from 1998 and equal to the record high crops of 1995 and 1996.

**MARCH 1, 1999 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS-PLANTED ACRES, KENTUCKY & UNITED STATES**

CROPS	KENTUCKY			UNITED STATES		
	1998	Ind. 1999	1999 % of 1998	1998	Ind. 1999	1999 % of 1998
	(Thousand Acres)		Percent	(Thousand Acres)		Percent
All Tobacco 1/	231.4	211.8	92	726.9	647.9	89
Burley Tobacco 1/	220.0	200.0	91	315.4	289.8	92
Corn	1,300	1,350	104	80,187	78,219	98
Soybeans	1,220	1,170	96	72,375	73,105	101
All Sorghum	10	7	70	9,626	8,804	91
All Wheat 2/	750	650	87	65,871	63,029	96
All Hay 1/	2,350	2,400	102	60,016	60,093	100
Barley 2/	8	9	113	6,340	5,274	83

1/ Harvested acreage. 2/ Includes acreage planted preceding fall.

### LIVESTOCK PRICES REMAIN MIXED

Prices received by **Kentucky** farmers at mid-March remained mixed for livestock and on the decline for grain prices.

**Barrows and gilts** at \$32.00 per cwt. were up \$1.00 from February and increased for the third consecutive month. Prices were down \$4.00 from March a year ago. Mid-March prices for **sows** at \$20.00

per cwt. were \$2.00 above last month while \$7.00 below March 1998.

**Steer and heifer** prices were unchanged from last month at \$67.00 per cwt. while down \$5.00 from the March 1998 price of \$72.00 per cwt. The mid-March price of **beef cows** at \$33.00 per cwt. was down \$1.00 from February and \$4.00 from March a year ago. For the fourth consecutive month **calf** prices have increased. The price at \$80.00 per cwt. was up \$2.00 from February but still \$4.00 below last year at this time.

The mid-March **all-milk** price of \$17.40 per cwt. was down \$1.00 from February while increasing \$2.30 from March a year ago. Even with the mid-month price decline, milk prices have been very good since hitting a recent low price of \$12.90 per cwt. in July 1998.

**Corn** prices continue to decline. After showing recent price strength of \$2.31 in January, corn prices have turned down. The mid-March price of \$2.20 per bushel was four cents below last month and 55 cents below last year. **Soybean** prices declined for the fourth straight month. Prices for mid-March at \$4.65 per bushel were down 26 cents from February and \$1.92 from a year ago. **Winter wheat** at \$2.35 per bushel was down 3 cents from February and 78 cents from March 1998.

The **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in March was 97 based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from February. This is a usual February to March increase due to the seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell. Higher seasonal marketings of strawberries, milk, broilers, and tomatoes more than offset the relatively lower marketings of cattle, cotton, oranges, and corn. Price decreases from February for milk, soybeans, broilers, and hogs more than offset price increases for cattle, lettuce, oranges, and eggs. Compared with March 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 5 points (4.9 percent) lower. Price decreases from March 1998 for soybeans, corn, hogs, and wheat more than offset price increases for milk, lettuce, strawberries, and carrots.

**AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - (Dollars)**

COMMODITY	UNI T	KENTUCKY			US
		MAR 1998	FEB 1999	MAR 1999	MAR 1999
		Entire Month		Mid-Month <u>a/</u>	
FARM PRICES					
All Corn <u>b/</u> <u>c/</u>	Bu.	2.75	2.24	2.20	2.04
Soybeans <u>b/</u>	Bu.	6.57	4.91	4.65	4.55
Winter Wheat <u>b/</u>	Bu.	3.13	2.38	2.35	2.56
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	107.00	124.00	123.00	82.40
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	70.00	81.00	80.00	67.40
All Hogs	Cwt.	35.60	30.50	31.50	26.50
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	36.00	31.00	32.00	26.90
Sows	Cwt.	27.00	18.00	20.00	20.30
All Beef Cattle <u>d/</u>	Cwt.	63.60	59.10	58.80	62.10
Steers & Heifers <u>e/</u>	Cwt.	72.00	67.00	67.00	65.50
Cows	Cwt.	37.00	34.00	33.00	34.70
Calves <u>f/</u>	Cwt.	84.00	78.00	80.00	86.50
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	15.10	18.40	17.40	15.00
Fluid <u>g/</u>	Cwt.	15.20	18.50	--	15.10
Manufactured	Cwt.	12.10	9.80	--	12.10
Hog-Corn Ratios <u>h/</u>	Bu.	12.9	13.6	14.3	13.0

a/ Preliminary. b/ Includes contract sales paid during month. c/ Includes yellow and white corn. d/ "Steers and heifers" and "cows" combined. e/ 500 lbs. and over. f/ Under 500 lbs. g/ Includes surplus diverted to manufacturing. h/ Number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 lbs. of hog live weight.

## WOOL PRODUCTION

Shorn wool production in the United States during 1998 was 49.2 million pounds, down 8 percent from 1997. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 6.43 million head, a decrease of 8 percent from 1997. The average price paid for wool sold in 1998 was \$0.60 per pound for a total value of \$29.4 million dollars, down 35 percent from \$44.9 million dollars in 1997.

Shorn wool production in Kentucky during 1998 totaled 130,000 pounds, up 11 percent from the 117,000 pounds produced during 1997. Sheep and lambs shorn during 1998 totaled 20,000 head, up 14 percent from a year ago. Average fleece weight per head for 1998 was 6.5 pounds down 0.2 pounds from 1997. The average price for wool in 1998 was \$0.32 per pound, \$0.09 less than the 1997 average price of \$0.41 per pound. Value of wool produced

during 1998 was \$42,000, compared with \$48,000 in 1997.

## MARCH 1 HOG & PIG INVENTORY

There were 470,000 hogs and pigs on Kentucky farms as of March 1, 1999, down 16 percent from a year ago, and down 10 percent from December 1998. Breeding inventory, at 65,000 head, was down 7 percent from a year ago, and unchanged from the December 1998 level. Market hog inventory, at 405,000 head, was 17 percent below March 1, 1998, and down 11 percent from December 1, 1998.

Kentucky hog producers farrowed 30,000 sows during December 1998 - February 1999, down 3 percent from the same period last year. Pigs saved per litter averaged 8.65, producing a December - February pig crop of 260,000 head, unchanged from a year ago. The September 1998 - February 1999 pig crop totaled 515,000 head from 60,000 sows. This was 1 percent below the September 1997 - February 1998 total of 519,000 pigs from 62,000 sows. Producers intend to farrow 30,000 sows during March - May, unchanged from actual farrowings during the same period in 1998. June-August farrowings are also estimated at 30,000, 3 percent more than the same period a year ago.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 1999, was 59.9 million head. This was 1 percent below March 1998, and 4 percent below December 1, 1998. Breeding inventory, at 6.53 million head, was down 6

percent from March 1, 1998 and down 2 percent from December 1, 1998. Market hog inventory, at 53.3 million head, was slightly above last year, but 4 percent below last quarter.

The December 1998-February 1999 U.S. pig crop, at 25.3 million head, was 1 percent less than 1998, but 9 percent more than 1997. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.89 million head, 1 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 43 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter rose to an average of 8.73 pigs saved per litter for the December-February period, compared to 8.70 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.88 million sows farrow during the March-May 1999 quarter, 7 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 1998 and 1 percent below 1997. Intended farrowings for June-August 1999, at 2.84 million sows, are 7 percent below the same period last year and 4 percent below 1997. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 30 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory.

### HOGS AND PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBERS BY CLASS & WEIGHT GROUPS MARCH 1, 1998 - 99, SELECTED STATES AND U.S.

	TOTAL		BREEDING		MARKET		MARKET HOGS								
State	1999	1999	1999	1999	1999	1999	Under 60 lbs.		60-119 lbs		120-179 lbs		180 lbs +		
	1,000	% of	1,000	% of	1,000	% of	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	
	Head	1998	Head	1998	Head	1998	(1,000 Head)								
AR	14,600	91	110	100	625	89	220	220			155	155	135	150	115
GA		100	70	100	420	100	170	170			105	85	80	60	65
IL		93	470	85	3,880	93	1,510	1,380			890	930	870	730	740
IN		94	420	89	3,380	94	1,370	1,290			800	700	690	610	600
IA		104	1,220	94	13,380	105	4,200	4,300			3,380	2,750	2,950	2,450	2,750
KS		102	165	85	1,365	105	540	515			280	235	255	280	315
<b>KY</b>		<b>84</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>170</b>			<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>60</b>
MI		99	110	85	880	101	290	280			225	195	190	165	185
MN		98	590	94	5,010	99	1,960	1,960			1,230	1,020	990	850	830
MO		90	400	91	2,650	90	1,370	1,170			650	540	500	410	330
NE	96	420	98	2,880	95	1,220	1,140			750	570	550	480	440	
NC	100	1,000	95	8,500	101	3,350	3,400			1,950	1,670	1,750	1,500	1,400	
OH	100	195	93	1,455	101	640	580			355	300	310	190	210	
OK	115	290	112	1,750	116	610	700			330	210	270	430	450	
PA	100	120	100	980	100	355	340			250	220	210	145	180	
SD	106	130	87	1,190	108	390	410			310	240	240	190	230	
WI	92	85	81	585	94	250	210			135	120	130	110	110	
17 St	55,195	99	5,860	93	49,335	100	18,645	18,235	11,960	11,895	10,040	10,195	8,825	9,010	
Other <sup>1/</sup>		106	667	102	3,988	106	1,547	1,569		869	734	775	639	776	
U.S.	59,851	99	6,527	94	53,323	100	20,192	19,804	12,791	12,764	10,774	10,970	9,464	9,786	

<sup>1/</sup>Individual state estimates not available for the 33 states.

## MARCH 1 CORN STOCKS UP 9 PERCENT

**Kentucky corn** stocks on March 1, 1999 totaled 45.4 million bushels, a 9 percent increase over the March 1, 1998 position. On-farm stocks totaled 31.0 million bushels, accounting for 68 percent of the total corn storage, up 5.00 million bushels from March 1, 1998. Off-farm stocks were down 9 percent from one year ago at 14.4 million bushels. Off-farm stocks include grain stored at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors.

Off-farm **soybean** stocks totaled 8.92 million bushels on March 1, 1999, up 42 percent from March 1 stocks last year and the largest since 1996. On-farm stocks for the State are no longer published separately and are included in the U.S. unallocated stocks.

Kentucky off-farm **wheat** stocks totaled 4.56 million bushels as of March 1, up 62 percent and the largest March 1 stocks on record.

**U.S. corn** stocks in all positions on March 1, 1999 totaled 5.70 billion bushels, up 15 percent from March 1, 1998. Of the total stocks, 3.57 billion bushels were stored on farms, up 20 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 2.13 billion bushels, were up 8 percent from a year ago. **Soybeans** stored in all positions on March 1, 1999 totaled 1.46 billion bushels, up 21 percent from March 1, 1998. On-farm stocks, estimated at 815 million bushels, were up 28 percent from last March, and accounted for 56 percent of the March 1, 1999 stocks. Off-farm stocks, at 643 million bushels, were 14 percent higher than the previous year. **All wheat** stored in all positions on March 1, 1999 totaled 1.44 billion bushels, up 24 percent from a year ago to the biggest March number since 1988. Farm stocks are 470 million bushels, up 18 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 975 million bushels, are up 27 percent.

### KENTUCKY AND UNITED STATES STOCKS OF GRAIN, MARCH 1, 1999 WITH COMPARISONS

CROP	POSITION	KENTUCKY			UNITED STATES		
		March 1 1998	Dec. 1 1998	March 1 1999	March 1 1998	Dec. 1 1998	March 1 1999
(Thousand Bushels)							
Corn	On-Farm	26,000	71,000	31,000	2,975,000	5,320,000	3,570,000
	Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	15,771	15,026	14,359	1,964,898	2,731,924 <u>5/</u>	2,125,546
	Total	41,771	86,026	45,359	4,939,898	8,051,924 <u>5/</u>	5,695,546
Sorghum	On-Farm	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	56,760	95,900	60,900
	Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>	177,916	239,416 <u>5/</u>	165,522
	Total	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	234,676	335,316 <u>5/</u>	226,422
Oats	On-Farm	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	58,800	81,500	61,700
	Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	424	<u>4/</u>	168	52,418 <u>5/</u>	61,850 <u>5/</u>	47,588
	Total	424	<u>4/</u>	168	111,218 <u>5/</u>	143,350 <u>5/</u>	109,288
Barley	On-Farm	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	81,900 <u>5/</u>	149,000 <u>5/</u>	86,900
	Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	20	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>	98,299	121,523	113,526
	Total	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	180,199 <u>5/</u>	270,523 <u>5/</u>	200,426
All Wheat	On-Farm	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	399,920	680,200	470,220
	Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	2,819	6,962	4,557	766,644	1,215,618 <u>5/</u>	974,594
	Total	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	1,166,564	1,895,818 <u>5/</u>	1,444,814
Soybeans	On-Farm	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	637,000	1,187,000	815,000
	Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	6,287	11,031	8,918	565,922	999,033 <u>5/</u>	643,280
	Total	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	1,202,922	2,186,033 <u>5/</u>	1,458,280

<sup>1/</sup> Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors. <sup>2/</sup> Kentucky is a minor State, not published separately. <sup>3/</sup> On-Farm oat stocks estimates not made. <sup>4/</sup> Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. <sup>5/</sup> Revised.